MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MARCH 1982

Israel

Dismissal of Mayors -- Central Command Commander Maj Gen Ori Or dismissed Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf from their posts, Jerusalem radio reported. The decision, which was authorized by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, was made against the background of their incitement activities, their nonrecognition of Professor Menahem Milson's Civilian Administration and their repeated attempts to disrupt public order in accordance with PLO directives, the radio said. The Civilian Administration has appointed two officers to replace Khalaf and ash-Shak'ah, although the latter refused to accept the dismissal order and still regards himself as mayor, according to another radio report. Earlier, Professor Milson had said in a radio interview that the source of the riots must be overcome through a political and administrative effort to uproot PLO influence in the occupied territories.

West Bank, Gaza Distrubances -- A youth from a Janin refugee camp was shot dead after stabbing a policeman, Jerusalem radio reported. Another Arab youth died near Rafah after handling explosives, the radio said. According to Arab sources, a youth killed earlier in the day near Hebron was shot dead by civilians in an Israeli jeep, the radio noted. Disturbances continued in east Jerusalem and Judaea and Samaria, according to the radio, and the IDF forced businessmen in Gaza to open their shops.

Terrorists Captured -- IDF units captured three terrorists who had attempted to penetrate Israel, pursuing them and engaging them in a brief battle inside southern Lebanon north of Kibbutz Hanita in western Galilee, ITIM reported. Terrorists have recently violated the cease-fire several times in this area, ITIM said. In a Jerusalem radio interview, Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said he takes a very serious view of this violation of the cease-fire agreement.

Early Elections -- Prime Minister Begin told reporters that there is no alternative to early elections, Jerusalem radio reported. Justice Minister Moshe Nisim likewise opined that early elections will be unavoidable unless the government coalition broadens its base after 26 April, MA'ARIV reported. According to YED'IOT AHARONOT, Nisim met with the Agudat Yisrael chairman to discuss a proposal that if dissident National Religious Party MK Hayim Druckman cannot be persuaded to vote in favor of the budget, the government should submit a draft bill amending the law of return instead of proceeding with the budgetary law. Meanwhile, according to Jerusalem radio, the government passed the first reading of the budget by calling a snap vote when Druckman was absent from the Knesset. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Druckman indicated that he would switch his support back to the government only if it stops the Sinai withdrawal.

Yamit Dispute -- IDF soldiers were evacuated from Yamit after disputes with the inhabitants which began when the IDF occupied empty apartments to prevent opponents of the Sinai withdrawal from seizing them, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

Arrest of Extremists -- Security authorities have arrested some extremists in Cairo who were conducting underground terrorist activities, MENA reported citing the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR. Those arrested belong to the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation, AL-MUSAWWAR noted.

Al-Baz, 'Ali on Talks With Israel -- Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz said that as a result of his meeting with Begin, Egypt and Israel are closer to solving the border demarcation problem, MENA reported. Al-Baz noted that during his talks in Israel he did not discuss the issue of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Jerusalem, but added that this problem is on the way to a solution. With regard to current events in the West Bank, he expressed the hope that the parties concerned will exercise self-restraint and concentrate on establishing relations between them as a means to achieve peace.

After a 5-hour Cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated in a question and answer session reported by MENA that as a result of his and Under Secretary Al-Baz's visits to Israel, the two countries agreed on three principles: Israel will withdraw to the international borderline; recourse will be made to Article 7 of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty which provides for negotiations, compromise or arbitration; if there are disputed areas, a method for resolving the dispute according to Article 7 can be reached by the Joint Higher Committee before the withdrawal.

AL-AHRAM Commentary -- An AL-AHRAM commentary reported by MENA claimed that Israel is isolating the legitimate Palestinian inhabitants in a new ghetto at the very moment when the world is asking for rapport between the two sides. The paper gave credence to the belief that Israel wants to crush patriotic bastions in the West Bank, perhaps as a prelude to annexing the area, disrupting ties between these bastions and the external Palestinian forces and provoking the latter to intervene through Lebanese territory, thus providing Israel with a pretext for an attempt to eliminate them.

PLO

In a message to the UN secretary general broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat appealed to the United Nations to restrain Israeli aggression against Palestinians in the occupied areas.

Lebanon

Artillery and rocket exchanges began in the Al-Batrun and Al-Kurah areas on 24 March, continuing the next morning, Beirut radio reported. The radio said the clashes are between villages in the area, which is north of Beirut and south of Tripoli, but it did not mention whether Lebanese Front or Syrian forces are involved.

Syria

The opposition National Alliance issued a charter, broadcast by Baghdad's Voice of Arab Syria Radio, calling for a multiparty parliamentary regime and outlining 16 principles agreed on by the alliance parties. The principles include a call for a relentless effort to wreck the present regime through popular armed struggle.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In the second phase of their current offensive, Iranian forces liberated "tens of kilometers," capturing and securing Reqabiyeh Gorge, Moshtaq Heights, and other sensitive areas, according to Tehran radio reports. Over 2,500 new prisoners were captured, bringing the total since the offensive began to 8,000, including 60 colonels and majors, the radio claimed. It also said, Iranian forces smashed counteroffensives near Dezlak Hill and 'Eyn Khosh, destroying 25 tanks and capturing much equipment intact. Iranian aircraft and antiaircraft units shot down 2 Iraqi planes, bringing the total of downed enemy aircraft to 8 in the last 3 days, and Iranian planes and helicopters bombed enemy positions and assembly points, the radio reported. In a statement broadcast by Tehran radio, the War Publicity Headquarters invited news media and international organizations to visit Iran in order to witness its victories.

President Saddam Husayn visited the southern sector and discussed the latest developments with commanders in the field, Baghdad radio noted. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by the radio reported fierce battles along the Shush-Dezful front, but added that despite new enemy reinforcements, thousands of Iranians have been killed, wounded or imprisoned. Iraqi air defense units shot down one enemy fighter plane and one helicopter, the communique added. A military spokesman cited by INA ridiculed Iran's victory claims and said Iraqi forces had imposed control over the Dezful-Shush battlefield. Iraqi forces seized 30 serviceable tanks, according to another INA report.

DAILY REPORT

South Asia

Vol VIII No 058

25 March 1982

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

AFGHANISTAN

Golabzoy Interrupts Karmal at PDPA Congress [AFP] C 1
Defense Minister Goes to USSR for 'Education' C 1
Aqa Attends Military University Gathering C 2
Pashtun Leader Khan Abdol Wali Kha Arrives C 2
Pakistan, Iran Said To Be Aiding Insurgents C 3
Wantanjar Departs for Vietnam Party Congress C 4
'Counterrevolutionaries' Caught in Several Areas C 4
'Mercenaries' in Kapisa C 4

BANGLADESH

Apparent Text of Ershad Address To Nation D 1
Night Curfew on Dacca; Rahman Under Arrest [Delhi] D 7
Khulna Port Placed Under 7-Hour Curfew [AFP] D 7
Martial Law Order No 1 on Punishable Offenses D 7
Army Day Headquarters Celebration Cancelled D 9
AFP: 'At Least Six Prominent Figures' Arrested D 9
Repatriation of Pakistanis To Start in April D 9
Briefs: DDT Spray D 9

INDIA

Gandhi, Rao Comment on Bangladesh Developments E 1
Tripura Border Forces Put on 'Highest Alert' [AFP] E 1
Rao Comments on Improved Relations With Pakistan E 1
Leaders Greet Haq on Pakistan National Day E 1
External Affairs Ministry Issues Annual Report E 2
Talks With French Mirage Manufacturers Continue E 2
175,000 Tons of Rice To Be Supplied to USSR E 2
PATRIOT: USSR Offers Arms Development Aid [20 Mar] E 3
EXPRESS Links Mizo Rebels, Bangladesh Army [17 Mar] E 3
STATESMAN: USSR Downplays CPI Congress [19 Mar] E 4
CPSU's Shevardnadze Speaks at CPI Congress [AFP] E 5
Bhutan King Concludes 3-Day Visit 19 Mar E 5

PAKISTAN

PRC's Ji Penjfei Begins Visit 22 March F 1
Talks With Haq 23 Mar F 1
Holds Further Talks 24 Mar F 1
Exchanges Speeches at Banquet F 1
Visits Afghan Refugee Camp F 2
Yaqub Khan Issues Statement on Afghan New Year F 3
Press on Implications of Ustinov Visit to India F 3
DAWN Editorial [19 Mar] F 3
JASARAT Editorial [17 Mar] F 4
Nusrat Bhutto, Prohibited From Demonstrating [DAWN 18 Mar] F 5
Teachers Fail To Gather; Minister Urges Unity F 5
Nomination of New Indian Envoy Accepted F 5

IRAN

Communique Reports Iraqi Brigades 'Smashed' I 1
Tehran Reports Number of Iraqi Captives I 1
Tehran Reports 'Great Victory' on Ragheyveh Front I 2
Tehran: Communique No 830 Reports on Fighting I 3
Radio Reports Downing of Iraqi MiG 23 Mar I 4
Colonel Denies Khorasan Division 'Shattered' I 4
Foreign Ministry Statement on Baghdad POW March I 4
President Khamene'i Addresses Mashhad Officials I 5

GOLABZOY INTERRUPTS KARMAL AT PDPA CONGRESS

BK231621 Hong Kong AFP in English 1548 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Islamabad, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Fears of armed clashes between rival Khalq (mass) and Parcham (flag) factions led to the abrupt ending of the first national congress of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), reports from Kabul said today.

The March 14 Soviet-advised congress, which aimed to obtain unity between the two groups, was held in security so tight that the official media kept its commencement secret, and Western sources reported at the time that the 30-hour conference had been "cut short" by one day.

According to reports reaching Western diplomatic sources here today, Afghan Interior Minister Golabzoy, the standard-bearer of the Khalq faction, interrupted a speech by President Babrak Karmal at the congress.

The sources said he had demanded identification of those involved in factionalism, and asked why the Interior Ministry was described as the ministry of "bandits" -- official jargon for opponents the Soviet-backed regime.

The chief of the Afghan secret service reportedly then attempted to stifle Mr. Golabzoy. The delegates responded by shouting: "We are one, we are one."

The sources added that Afghan Politburo member Saleh Mohammed Zeraye, the leader of the now inactive National Fatherland Front, had said there was factionalism in the choice of the 836 congress delegates from among several thousand officially elected representatives.

According to the sources, the hot atmosphere at the congress compelled the regime to end it one day ahead of schedule.

Western diplomatic sources added that on the eve of the March 21 Afghan new year, observed in Western Europe and America as "International Afghan Solidarity Day," a demonstration of 15,000 to 20,000 people was held in Kabul outside the U.S. Embassy.

Speakers condemned U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the regimes in Israel, Pakistan and China, as television crews filmed the 45 minute protest, the sources said.

Western diplomatic sources also confirmed the reported death of Kabul University President Azizur Rehman Saeedi. The official Afghan media reported on March 16 that he died of heart failure, but other sources have alleged that he was killed by his Parchamite rivals.

DEFENSE MINISTER GOES TO USSR FOR 'EDUCATION'

LD241920 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Mohammad Rafi', member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of defense, left today for the USSR to continue his education after attending the PDPA national conference.

Dastaghir Panjsheri and Dr Najibollah, members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; members of the PDPA Central Committee and Revolutionary Council; generals and officers of the armed forces; and members of the USSR Embassy in Kabul saw him off at Kabul International Airport.

Nazar Mohammad, member of the PDPA Central Committee and general commander of air and air defense force; Colonel Khalilollah, member of the PDPA Central Committee and commander of the Central Army Corps; and Lt Col Mohammad Hashem, member of the PDPA Central Committee and attorney of the armed forces, also left today for the USSR to continue their higher education after attending the PDPA national conference.

AQA ATTENDS MILITARY UNIVERSITY GATHERING

LD232334 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] A glorious gathering was held today in the courtyard of the Military University by the personnel of this command to support the resolutions and decisions of the national PDPA conference.

Brig Gen Gol Aqa, in charge of armed forces political affairs, attended this gathering and in a speech conveyed the sincere best wishes of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to the personnel of the Military University on the occasion of the new year.

In his speech, Brig Gen Gol Aqa also drew the attention of the militant youth of the armed forces and the heroic personnel of the Military University to their revolutionary duties and explained the historic value of the PDPA national conference. His speech was enthusiastically received by those attending the gathering.

The commander of the Military University, the political head, a teacher and one of the students also spoke on the valuable resolutions of the PDPA national conference.

This glorious gathering ended after issuing a resolution and the playing of the national anthem.

PASHTUN LEADER KHAN ABDOL WALI KHAN ARRIVES

LD242310 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Khan Abdol Wali Khan, the militant and outstanding leader of the Pashtuns, and Mrs Nasim Wali, his wife and a leader of the Pakistan National Democratic Party, arrived this afternoon in Kabul to visit Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan, the militant and great Pashtun leader who is receiving treatment in a hospital.

Some members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, some members of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, some members of the Council of Ministers, high-ranking government officials, some members of the Democratic Woman's Organization of Afghanistan [DWOA], some representatives of nationalities and tribes and a large number of his friends welcomed him at Kabul International Airport.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reported that after the arrival of Khan Abdol Wali Khan and Mrs Nasim Wali, a group of Pioneers presented to them flowers.

According to the BAKHTAR report Khan Abdol Wali Khan and Mrs Nasim Wali arrived in Afghanistan via Torkham.

At Torkham, Khan Abdol Wali Khan and Mrs Nasim Wali were welcomed by Sulayman Laeq, the minister of nationalities and tribal affairs [title as heard], the head of the eastern zone, the secretary of the provincial party committee, the governor of Nangarhar, the commander of the Nangarhar 11th Army Division and a number of government department heads.

Accompanied by the minister of nationalities and tribal affairs they set off for the city of Jalalabad by car and along the length of the road, in all residential areas, they were warmly welcomed by the inhabitants of these regions.

The BAKHTAR correspondent added that after the arrival in Jalalabad City they were enthusiastically welcomed by members of the provincial and city party committees, the chairman and members of the provincial National Fatherland Front committee in Nangarhar Province, members of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan and the DWOA, members of farmers cooperatives and trade unions, members of the pioneers, employees of the government departments, representatives of Pashtun and Baluch tribes who are residents of this province, and thousands of the citizens of Jalalabad City.

Khan Abdol Wali Khan and his companion left for Kabul after a brief rest and lunch in Jamhuriat garden of Jalalabad City.

According to another report, after arriving in Kabul Khan Abdol Wali Khan and his companion went directly to the hospital to visit Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan.

PAKISTAN, IRAN SAID TO BE AIDING INSURGENTS

LD240522 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 23 Mar (BAKHTAR) -- The Government of Pakistan and the leading reactionary circles of Iran continue their policy of all-sided cooperation to the so-called fighters for freedom and Islam, namely to those bands who are hidden in Pakistan and in the border regions between Iran and Afghanistan.

A report of the so-called Bureau of Harakat-e-Islami-i-Afghanistan, a bandits organization which has come to the hand of the progressive forces of Peshawar City, is indicative of the above fact.

The directors of this bureau, set up in Room 106, Habib Hotel, Bazaar, Peshawar City, have reported to its headquarters located in the Enqelab Avenue, Post Office Box No. 200, Qom City of Iran that a room has been rented in Peshawar for this bureau and that the above bureau has been officially recognized by the Government of Pakistan.

The political organs of the military Government of Pakistan who persecute the enlightened representatives of Pushtoons have given permission to the criminal bands of the so-called Harakat-e-Islami-i-Afghanistan to establish special camps in Haripur District, near Rawalpindi, for training homicidal mercenaries. The "bureau" in its report has asked the headquarters to send to these camps more mercenaries as well as the propaganda sheet called "esteqamat".

According to the said report, the leaders of the Harakat are determined to stay permanently in Peshawar. The activists of the said organisation have been sent to Peshawar for establishing a special office there. In Peshawar representatives of the so-called wahdat (unity) council carry on their activity aimed at getting the bandits parties and organisations unified.

Similarly, the report adds that the representative of Harakat established its link with some official authorities of Iran in Peshawar and they have promised to provide the said bureau with the counter-revolutionary sheets and documents. In addition, the said bureau has requested that the propaganda sheets and documents be sent to the cultural centre of Iran in Peshawar for subsequent delivery to the bureau.

Likewise, the said bureau has kept ties with BBC correspondents in Pakistan and daily JANG newspaper of Pakistan who play up the fabrications regarding the "exploits" of bandits.

The ringleader of this miscreant band, Mohammed Asef Mohsin Qandahari, from so-called "Harakat-e-Islami" has committed great crimes against the people of Afghanistan. For example, the murderers attached to that groups tried to carry the cases, containing mines and hand grenades and filled with poisonous chemical materials, into the border between Iran and Afghanistan. The said band was crushed by the security forces of the DRA and one of the members of this groups, Mehdi Hassan, a citizen of Iran, was captured and was given to the justice authorities.

In any case, according to available reports, the Government of Pakistan and the reactionary circles of Iran continue to extend their cooperation to Qandahari and his collaborators of other counter-revolutionary bands for furthering their terroristic and plundering activities.

WATANJAR DEPARTS FOR VIETNAM PARTY CONGRESS

LD231456 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications, left today for Vietnam at the head of a delegation to take part in the Fifth Congress of the SRV Communist Party.

He was seen off at Kabul airport by Dr Najib, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, and by representatives of the International Relations Department of the PDPA Central Committee.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' CAUGHT IN SEVERAL AREAS

LD221738 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Working with the sincere cooperation of our people, the heroic officers and men of the armed forces, sarandoy and revolution defense groups recently crushed criminal bands -- those enemies of our people, homeland and revolution -- in Parvan, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Balkh and Qandahar Provinces. A number of the counterrevolutionary elements were captured.

The security authorities of these provinces report that a 52-man band of terrorists and saboteurs were captured with 14 assorted weapons in (Sinjitdara) village, Parvan Province. In addition, a group of rebels was discovered in (Hufian) village, and their leader, ('Abdol Majid), was captured.

One of the hiding places of a group of murderers was discovered in the Baghlan city suburbs, and the leader of this criminal band, (Ya'qub), was crushed. Five others, led by (Shayesta Mir), were captured with eight weapons.

According to another report, a band of thieves was eliminated along the Baghlan-Qonduz highway, and 28 weapons were seized by the security forces. The report adds that the officers and men of the Badakhstan Province sarandoy and operational battalion crushed a second band of these criminals in the same area. Four men were captured.

Eight members of a rebel band were eliminated in Balkh district, and four counterrevolutionaries were captured in Hajari village, Balkh Province.

A report reaching us from Qandahar says a 70-man band of traitors to the homeland and revolution and servants of imperialism and reaction was eliminated in Panjva'i district with their leaders (Mir Ahmad), ('Abdol Nafi), (Mohammad) and (Mollah Esma'il).

'Mercenaries' in Kapisa

LD231528 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Our heroic armed forces, sarandoy units, party activists and revolution defense groups have discovered the hiding places of counterrevolutionary elements in the Nejreb and Tagab districts and the Alaqai subdistricts in Kapisa Province. From 25 February to 11 March they crushed hundreds of mercenaries of imperialism and reaction and captured 220 persons.

According to a report by Kapisa Province security authorities, hundreds of our compatriots who had been taken by force to the mountains and who lived under hard conditions, were released from the claws of these criminals and murderers. The report adds that hundreds of weapons, rocket launchers, antipersonnel and antitank mines were seized either from the detainees or those who were crushed.

Another report, from Takhar Province, says that a group of counterrevolutionaries, these enemies of our homeland and people, was crushed in the Ahendara area in the suburbs of Toloqan, the capital of Takhar. Weapons, together with a quantity of ammunition, were seized by the security forces.

APPARENT TEXT OF ERSHAD ADDRESS TO NATION

BK241222 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0830 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad, chief of armed forces and chief martial law administrator, 24 March address to the nation -- live or recorded]

[Text] I begin in the name of God. Dear countrymen, assalam-o-aleikum. I have come before you during a grave national crisis. The armed forces of the country had to take over the government to save the country and the nation from a social, administrative and economic breakdown and to keep independence and sovereignty intact. Martial law has been imposed throughout the country. The president has been relieved of his responsibilities and the Council of Ministers and the parliament have been suspended, the constitution has been temporarily abrogated. I have taken on the responsibility of chief martial law administrator and chief of the armed forces. A civilian will be appointed as the new president and he will assume the responsibilities of head of state. An advisory council will be set up to assist me as the head of the government. Several steps have already been taken to maintain law and order and you will come to know about them in detail very soon.

I now want to say something to you about the background under which the armed forces had to undertake such a great responsibility. You know the nation's security, independence and sovereignty today face a serious threat due to social and political indiscipline, unprecedented corruption, a bankrupt economy, administrative breakdown, extreme degradation of law and order and a grave economic and food crisis. The government has failed totally because of the petty selfishness, unworthiness, nepotism, unbounded corruption and conflict of those in power. The people of the country have no faith in this government.

You surely remember that last 11 February, in an address to the nation the former president himself frankly admitted the corruption of this Council of Ministers and dissolved that worthless cabinet and promised to form a new Council of Ministers composed of honest, sincere and suitable persons.

The people again hoped the president, who was elected by them in reflecting their hopes and aspirations, would form a Council of Ministers in which the members, capability and integrity would be beyond question. Regrettably, the reshuffled Council of Ministers once again failed to meet the hopes and aspirations of the people because the same old persons, about whose honesty and sincerity doubts and questions were raised in the minds of the people, formed the new Council of Ministers. In the next stage, efforts were made to bring about some changes in the situation by expanding the cabinet and redistributing the portfolios. But, in fact, these outward changes were nothing but an unsuccessful attempt by the government to eradicate its inner weaknesses and inefficiency. The people hoped these changes would help achieve their goal, or in other words, would help form a strong government having the people's confidence with true, honest and capable persons. But their hopes and aspirations were shattered. Today the whole nation shares a grave despair and serious uncertainty.

Democracy earned with great sacrifice had been threatened more than once. But the vigilant guards of democracy -- the great people of this country and the patriotic armed forces -- with their united efforts have always been able to thwart those threats successfully.

Various incidents between last 30 May and 11 February are bright examples of the united efforts of the people. But, the rulingquarter's inefficiency, its weakness and its futile efforts to fulfill its interests created extreme anarchy and stagnation in every aspect of national life and extreme instability in social and political fields.

Recently, an impression was created in the minds of the people that the patriotic armed forces of the country had indirectly supported all important decisions of the inefficient government; it has also been propagated that the government was forced to take certain decisions in the face of pressure by the armed forces. However, I would like to categorically inform you that this was completely incorrect and tendentious. This was a futile attempt by the government to delude the people and cover up their misdeeds.

Dear countrymen, the patriotic armed forces had to respond to the call of the people in these difficult days of the country and the nation by taking this extreme measure, because there was no other alternative before the nation. Otherwise, the country's security and its existence would have been in danger and the economic and social structure would have totally collapsed. Unlimited corruption led to the creation of such an anarchical situation in the country that an influential minister of the government did not hesitate to provide shelter to a loathsome murdering criminal at his government residence. You will be amazed to know that members of the government holding high office then tried to exert considerable influence to stop publication of this nefarious incident in the newspapers. But, our brave, truthful journalists were able to hold the great ideals of journalism high by not surrendering to that wicked quarter and exposing the corrupt government to the people. As a result of this, the government was forced to take subsequent measures.

You know that the national economy today is completely shattered, as a result of which the attainment of economic emancipation of the common people has become hardly possible. The incorrect policies of the government and sick economic programs and above all the economic chaos created due to in efficient management gradually widened the gap between various levels of the people. Industrial production was about to cease. On the other hand, due to extreme mismanagement, corruption and plundering in banks, offices, courts and nationalized industries, destruction of property and misuse of power continued unrestricted. The people's lives became unbearable due to the tyranny of smugglers, black marketeers, hoarders and profiteers. Due to the government's shortsightedness and its failure to take timely steps, the country faced an extreme food and economic crisis. Due to the extreme mismanagement of imports, exports and foreign exchange, domestic and foreign businessmen and industrialists expressed their unwillingness to invest in Bangladesh. Foreign aid organizations, international banks and other financial organizations gradually started losing faith in the government due to political and economic instability. As a result, this government failed to receive expected responses from them in emergencies.

Overall the country is fast moving toward bankruptcy. The people of the country had hoped that this disappointing situation would change after the last election. But it is a matter of great regret that all our aspirations and all our greams have been shattered. The people were plunged into deep distress as their hopes failed. In the midst of that despair the nation saw that the president, who was elected by their votes, submitted to pressure from the hated and selfish elements in society. He violated the pledge he gave to the nation.

On the other side, the ruling party engaged in an unprecedented internal conflict for personal gain. The respresentatives elected by the people also engaged in a big conspiracy to attain their vicious interests and this led to a dangerous uncertainty and created a serious stalemate everywhere and in all spheres of the country.

Dear countrymen, our people are, in general, patriotic and honest. They are industrious and patient and with proper leadership they can attain the pinnacle of fame. They have given proof of it under the proper and inspiring leadership of the late leader Ziaur Rahman. But following his death a serious political, social and economic disorder was created in the country and the people were forced to act as silent spectators in that situation.

The people of the country are fully aware of the responsibility of the armed forces. They were sure the members of the armed forces, the sons of this soil, would stand by their side in this crucial time for the people and the nation. They know of the armed forces' responsibility in the past, especially after the mishap of 30 May. But after some recent incidents, the people from various walks of life had also started losing confidence in the armed forces because we were not coming forward to save them from this grave crisis for the nation and people. Their lives were gradually becoming unbearable in the grip of extremely corrupt and dishonest people.

The members of the armed forces, who are resolved to continue the democratic process in the country, remained silent for so many days in the face of such a disappointing and desperate situation because they had unflinching faith in democratic values. Thus, the members of the armed forces, like their civilian brothers, demonstrated patience. They hoped the government elected by them would be able to solve this problem. The important role played by the armed forces in maintaining the democratic process in the country is not unknown to you.

Several persons had asked me to take power since 30 May. Under the circumstances it would then have been quite normal and expected, but perhaps you do not know that I firmly rejected all those requests because I had faith that from my own position I would be able to serve the nation perfectly well. Having profound faith in the great democratic values, I hoped that the politicians, especially those who held power, would adopt suitable programs in this crisis of the people and lead the nation toward progress and prosperity. Regrettably, the events that followed destroyed all our hopes and aspirations.

As a result of the rulers' activities to fulfill their heinous designs, extreme danger overshadowed the life of the nation. All our efforts to uphold democracy failed miserably; of course, it is extremely distressing. Still, we have to face this situation with patience and courage and we have to find its solution ourselves. God willing, we will be able to face this challenge successfully with your sincere efforts and active cooperation. We can no longer remain idle in the face of this rueful condition and the crisis in the country.

A Bangladesh supreme court judge, addressing a Dacca University students union installation ceremony on 16 March, said that a situation in the nation has been created under which the more a man is capable of harming others, the more influential he is. The honest and good people in society are forced to live helplessly. Good people are gradually withdrawing themselves from social life, causing a continuing increase in dishonest and corrupt people's pull and influence. Today, there has been such decay in morality in our individual, social and national life that if we fail to counter it with courage, it will endanger our prestige as a self-respecting nation. He regretted that waste and misappropriation of national assets were being publicized in newspapers, but there has been no solution to it.

The country is reeling under the tide of corruption and we are looking on helplessly or drifting with that tide. The sore of corruption is taking the shape of a cancer in society. This situation can no longer be allowed to continue. We are now determined to counter it. To take the role of a spectator or remain idle in this situation is tantamount to treachery to the country and our countrymen.

In this context, I would like to state categorically to you that I never had any political ambitions. I am not a politician, I am a soldier and with the pride of a soldier I would like to enlist myself in the service of the people. I would like to inform you clearly that our prime target is to restore democracy in the country. However, it should be a democracy which is consistent with the ideas of the people and capable of fulfiling their demands. It will be a democracy under which the people can fully and effectively participate in all activities of the country. Under this democracy, the people will have a representative government which will be formed solely by them and for them and will work for their welfare. It will not take long to achieve this end if we work sincerely and unitedly, God willing.

Our main objective will be to hold fair general elections in the country by making the situation congenial as soon as possible. I firmly believe general elections in the country will be held as soon as possible.

Dear countrymen, I want to say something now about the imposition of martial law. The present military rule is not a rule governed by any firm, traditional concept. Its main source is the country's 90 million people and thus its relations with them is very close-knit. The primary objective of this system, imposed at the demand of the people, is to set up a happy, propserous and exploitation-free society by properly reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people.

You know that without eliminating the present political chaos it would be impossible to make the democratic path smooth and stable. Thus, our purpose is to set up a favorable political climate in which there will be no impediemtns to the healthy growth of democracy and the people and the nation will not repeatedly face difficulties and crisis.

As this present acute economic problem was not created in a day, so also this huge, mountainous problem has no immediate solution. Being inspired by the great objectives of honesty, devotion, hard work and patriotism, we have to willfully and sincerely march united.

An economic revolution will have to be initiated for the attainment of economic emancipation and for the establishment of an exploitation-free social system. The objective of this new economic system will be to contain the upward trend of the commodity prices, to end the food crisis on an emergency basis, to achieve self-reliance in all spheres of national life by reducing dependence on foreign aid, to turn the nationalized industries into profit earning organizations on a commercial basis. This will require austerity on our part, reduction of administrative expenses and an end to the waste of national resources. Economic mismanagement and offenses committed thereby will be dealt with with an iron hand under martial law. We have to set up a favorable climate for investment by private enterprise. We have to adopt a revolutionary program in agricultural development and all-out efforts will have to be made to increase food production after necessary land reforms.

In industrial development, we have to ensure uninterrupted production by adopting an effective and realistic program. At the same time, we have to be effective in ensuring the rights of the workers and improving their living standards.

The fast growing population badly hurts all our development efforts. We have to bring this situation under control. To make the people aware of it will be one of our primary responsibilities.

We have to take practical steps to solve the country's unemployment problem so that this huge excess manpower can be successfully included in the massive developmental process of the country. The armed forces will actively participate with the people in this new developmental and economic system to supervise far-reaching effects in all levels of national life which will herald a new horizon of economic advancement of the country.

The main problem among our immediate problems is corruption, which by infiltrating into the very fabric of society, like the dreadful disease of cancer, polluted and poisoned the social life. We are determined to free society from the clutches of this all-destructive corruption. As of today, we are identifying corruption as the enemy of the nation and are declaring a total jihad against it. I want to assure you that by employing the full power of martial law against this national enemy of corruption, all corrupted sections will be sternly suppressed. We will, however, keep in mind that the root of corruption is very deep and like vested interests, the circle of corruption is very powerful. As the elements of powerful vested interests in high levels of politics and the economy have built this castle of corruption, the extent of this abominable disease is very deep. Therefore, we have to take effective steps to uproot it permanently by creating a mass resistance against this dangerous social malpractice. A number of agitations, movements, sit-in strikes and strikes have been observed in the country in the name of politics and the labor movement. It goes without saying that such activities are very harmful for a country like ours and pushes the country toward destruction. In the larger interest of the country these activities will no longer be tolerated. Production in the country has been greatly hampered; a stagnant economy has been created. Therefore, from now on all agitational and political activities are banned.

In the administrative sphere also we will have to make overwhelming changes. A new administrative structure will have to be formed which will be aimed at the welfare of the people and under which the present gap between the administration and the common people can be removed. In fact, popular representatives' participation in the administration will have to be ensured and the local administration should be people oriented in this manner and made a real servant of the people. This new administration should be accountable to the people. We are determined to eradicate all kinds of crimes such as bribery, corruption, nepotism, abuse of power, neglect of duty and wastage of properties from the administration.

In the case of the judiciary also, reform measures will have to be adopted by which, within the minimum possible time and in an inexpensive way, the people become capable of receiving justice. You know, in the past, due to personal or sheer political reasons, the authorities maintaining law and order were made ineffective and lifeless. From now on they will be allowed to work in the larger interest of the people without fear and bias.

One more major responsibility before us is to restore the sanctity of education by freeing the campus from pollution. You know a section of politicians in the past polluted the sanctity of the educational field by getting students directly involved in politics in a bid to fulfill their own heinous designs. In the name of the student movement, these vested interests used the students to fulfill their interests, as a result of which educational campuses turned into battlefields. The freedom and sanctity of education was poisoned by the clash of arms. Undoubtedly, this situation is extremely harmful to the nation and so we have decided to restore immediately the sanctity of the educational campus at any cost, and, by providing proper educational facilities, the students should be brought up as eligible sons of the soil and ideal citizens. I would like to assure you that, with no compromises in this regard, appropriate measures will be taken shortly.

Dear countrymen, people of the country imbued with the great ideal and inspiration of the freedom struggle took part in the war of independence. Every citizen moved by the ideal of independence that day staked his life and came forward for the establishment of a free and sovereign homeland. You know the freedom struggle was not launched merely for a piece of land or a flag. It was launched to establish a social system free of exploitation and corruption in an independent Bangladesh, to nurture freely our own heritage, art, culture and traditions. Ensuring religions' reflection in our personal and collective life was also one of the targets of this freedom struggle. By adopting the bright example of extreme self-sacrifice, our brave freedom fighters did not fight the war in expectation of any gain. Rather, by giving away everything, they took part in the freedom struggle for the formation of a truly independent and self-reliant country. We have to vow anew today to realize their dream, and we have to remain ready to make sacrifices of all kinds if necessary. I would like to categorically declare in this context that a thankful nation will engage all its efforts to realize the golden dream of its brave sons.

Dear countrymen, I want to state plainly that in international affairs we believe in a foreign policy of friendship with all and malice toward none. The basic objectives of our foreign policy will be the principles of sovereign equality, noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and the peaceful solution of all problems. Our relations with all friendly countries wishing Bangladesh well will remain intact. We put special emphasis on establishing good relations with our neighboring countries. We will continue our efforts to implement the farsighted initiative of the late Ziaur Rahman for establishing regional cooperation among the South Asian nations.

Our foreign policy will be based on a firm foundation of the UN Charter, friendship with Islamic nations and full solidarity with the Third World and nonaligned nations. The primary objective of this policy will be to protect and consolidate our independence which was acquired after great sacrifice and to strengthen international cooperation in our development efforts. By following this principle we are resolved to expand our friendly relations with different nations. Along with all the developing nations of the world we reiterate our support for the struggle against all kinds of colonialism, racialism, aggression and expansion. We will honor all agreements and understandings that Bangladesh entered into in internationally and regionally. I believe our friendly relations will further grow with the Islamic Conference Organization and the Third World nations. Our full support will continue for our Palestinian brothers who are making a life and death struggle for the recovery of their motherland. We will continue our efforts to improve our relations with the big powers. But I want to emphasize here that we desire friendship with any foreign country but not their hegemony.

Dear countrymen, I have so far spoken to you to present an overall picture of the country and to acquaint you with our main policy and objectives. My further purpose has been to tell you frankly that this drastic step was taken with greater interest of the people in the stability of Bangladesh. At this auspicious moment of the nation I appeal to all citizens, especially the politicians, students, teachers, peasants, soldiers, workers, government and private employees, businessmen, industrialists, intellectuals and freedom fighters and people of all walks of life: Come, let us work unitedly without any affliation to parties or views for building the nation. Your sincere cooperation and active participation will make our great efforts successful.

I appeal to all institutions implementing martial law and members of the armed forces and paramilitary forces to courageously carry out this great responsibility and duty impartially, honestly, judiciously and faithfully. The whole nation is looking toward you and on your action depends a bright future for the nation.

Let us pray to the merciful God Almighty that by passing this hard test we will be known to the world as a strong and self-reliant nation and can establish a full-fledge democratic system as soon as possible.

May God help us. Goodbye. Long live Bangladesh!

NIGHT CURFEW ON DACCA; RAHMAN UNDER ARREST

BK241556 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Our Dacca correspondent reports that normal life continues unaffected in the city and buses and rickshaws are plying. However, troops have been placed at several places. Dacca is reported to have been placed under night curfew.

According to a delayed report the former Bangladesh prime minister, Azizur Rahman and other ministers are under house arrest.

The martial law administration in Bangladesh today sealed the major rail and road border checkposts at (Hilly), Benapur and Darshana. West Bengal Home Secretary Rotin Sengupta told newsmen in Calcutta that the checkposts are across West Dinajpur, Nadia and 24 Paraganas District of West Bengal.

KHULNA PORT PLACED UNDER 7-HOUR CURFEW

BK241541 Hong Kong AFP in English 1526 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Khulna port town and neighbouring areas in Bangladesh have been placed under a seven-hour curfew tonight, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported from Calcutta, monitoring an announcement over the Khulna station of Radio Bangladesh.

The curfew came into force from 10 p.m. Bangladesh Standard Time (1600 GMT).

The announcement said any violation of the curfew would be severely dealt with, though there was no indication of any trouble having developed in these areas.

MARTIAL LAW ORDER NO 1 ON PUNISHABLE OFFENSES

BK250356 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] General Hussain Mohammad Ershad last night issued Martial Law Order No 1, 1982. Under [words indistinct] the CMLA can set up a special military tribunal, special military courts and summary military courts for certified corrupt areas.

The military court can try any offense punishable under martial law regulations or orders or any other law. The special military tribunals and special military courts can adjudicate punishable offenses under the martial law regulations, orders or offences coming under the purview of the law.

The summary military courts can impose sentence for any punishable offense, except the death sentence, life imprisonment or imprisonment of more than 7 years, under the martial law regulations or orders for offences coming under the purview of law.

If an offense does not come under the regular laws, a military court can try any punishable offense under the martial law regulations and orders on the basis of a written report of a police officer not below the rank of an inspector, or an inspector of the Bangladesh Anticorruption Bureau or an officer at or above the position of deputy director or any commissioned military officer.

The military court will try any punishable offense under any law beyond the purview of the martial law regulations on the basis of a written report requested by the CMLA or an officer in whom the CMLA has vested power.

The CMLA or an officer in whom the CMLA has vested power can transfer any case from one military court to another or from diwani or foujdari [lower] courts or special tribunals to military courts or from special military tribunals to special military courts.

If the military court believes the suspected person has escaped or has gone underground in such a way that he cannot be arrested or brought to trial, then the court can try him in absentia and can also confiscate his movable and immovable property. No lawyer can be present or speak on behalf of the accused in the summary military court. However, a person approved by the accused can extend help and advice to him and this person will be known as the friend of the accused.

Immediately after completion of the reports of special courts' trials, the CMLA will place them under consideration. The reports of the trials of the summary military courts will be sent immediately to the concerned area martial law administrator for review. After reviewing the fairness of the judgment, the CMLA or the regional martial law administrator can approve, reject or amend the verdict or order a retrial. All orders and verdicts of the military courts under consideration are considered to be final.

No court, including the Supreme Court, will question any order, verdict, sentence or trial procedure of the military court. No court, including the Supreme Court, can review the military court's decision for any reason.

No lawyer can appear before the CMLA or regional martial law administrator during consideration of the cases or extend support to the accused. No court or tribunal, without the consent of the government, can grant bail to a person who has been detained if he has been found guilty of a crime punishable under martial law regulations or orders or has already been indicted.

An officer not below the rank of an inspector or an inspector or an officer not below the position of deputy director of the Bangladesh Anticorruption Bureau or a military officer not below the rank of commissioned officer can conduct an inquiry or [words indistinct] before the recording of the preliminary inquiry report of any punishable offence. However, under regulation No 18, a police subinspector or deputy inspector of the Anticorruption Bureau can conduct an inquiry into a punishable offense.

Persons possessing firearms or ammunition without a valid license will receive the death sentence, life imprisonment, or 14 years at hard labor, or he will be fined or all or part of his property will be confiscated. If firearms and ammunitoon are recovered at a particular place and if no one claims ownership of them, then, in that case, if the owner of that place fails to produce any document regarding these firearms and ammunition, it will be considered that these unlicensed firearms and ammunition were recovered from him.

If any president, vice president, minister, state minister or deputy minister, speaker, deputy speaker or member of parliament, or chairman, [words indistinct], members or officers of any local autonomous body or any corporation or organization under the corporation, any leader of a political party or trade union or any government employee through corrupt or illegal means or by misusing power before and after the issuance of this order has accrued any movable or immovable property for himself or for any other person, or made any attempt to do so, or gained any financial benefit or made any attempt to do so -- thereby causing economic or finacial loss to the state -- he can be sentenced to death, life imprisonment or imprisonment for up to 14 years, and at the same time he can be fined or all or part of his property can be confiscated.

ARMY DAY HEADQUARTERS CELEBRATIONS CANCELLED

BK250853 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Special announcement]

[Text] The reception scheduled to be held in connection with Army Day at Dacca Army headquarters today has been cancelled. For the information of invited military and civil guests it is announced that the Army Day observation at Dacca Army headquarters today, 25 March, will not be held due to unavoidable circumstances.

AFP: 'AT LEAST SIX PROMINENT FIGURES' ARRESTED

BK251259 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Dacca, 25 Mar (AFP) — At least six prominent figures including three former ministers were arrested by the military authorities in Bangladesh after Wednesday's coup which toppled the 4-month old civilian government of President Abdus Sattar, well-informed sources said today.

The sources said the three ministers who had been detained were former Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman, one-time State Minister for Manpower Development Ataauddin Khan and former State Commerce Minister Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddique.

But the arrests could not be officially confirmed.

The others taken into custody were former opposition member of parliament Suranjit Sen Gupta, the leader of a freedom fighter's association, retired Colonel Nurulzaman, and R.B. Shah, principal of a city school.

Charges against them were not immediately known but sources said they were taken in mainly on charges of corruption, which the military authorities have promised to wipe out from society.

REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANIS TO START IN APRIL

BK221527 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The next phase of the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis is expected to start in the second week of next month. A Foreign Office spokesman told the BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA in Dacca today that necessary arrangements are well underway for the purpose. He said that the Governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees are in constant touch regarding these arrangements.

Asked further about the details, the spokesman said that the Government of Saudi Arabia will help by providing an aircraft for the repatriation work. Replying to a question, the Foreign Office spokesman said the Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia did its utmost to relieve the plight of the Bangladeshi workers employed by Jidda municipality despite their violation of local law by staging street demonstration.

BRIEFS

DDT SPRAY -- The government is to lift 1,300 tons of a special type of DDT by July next from the Chittagong DDT factory to combat the mosquito menace in the country. The quantity is in addition to the 400 tons of DDT procured from the Netherlands. Out of the 1,300 tons of DDT, the government has already lifted 500 tons for spraying. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 14 Mar 82 BK]

GANDHI, RAO COMMENT ON BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS

BK241245 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said in the Lok Sabha India expects that the developments in Bangladesh will not affect bilateral relations. Rao said that the government has been in constant touch with our high commissioner. According to information received in New Delhi, the situation in Bangladesh appears to be under control. The personnel of the Indian High Commission are safe. Rao said the Government of India views the developments as an internal matter of Bangladesh. However, the government continues to keep a watch on the situation.

Addressing a news conference in London, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi said that India is bound to be worried if there is a type of instability in our neighborhood. Replying to a question about today's developments in Bangladesh, she said: We can only hope that there will be peace and harmony. Mrs Gandhi expressed the hope that there will be no outside interference in Bangladesh. She said when there is prolonged instability there is a chance of such interference. There are elements which might take advantage of the situation.

TRIPURA BORDER FORCES PUT ON 'HIGHEST ALERT'

BK240918 Hong Kong AFP in English 0907 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP) -- All security posts along the Indian border state of Tripura's 889 kilometre (552 mile) international boundary with Bangladesh have been put on the highest alert today following the promulgation of martial law in Bangladesh, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said today.

Reporting from Agartala, capital of the state, the Indian agency quoted official sources as saying that all security posts have been asked to maintain a round-the-clock vigil on the border.

RAO COMMENTS ON IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

BK241033 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The external affairs minister told the Rajya Sabha today that there are indications of an improvement in the atmosphere of India-Pakistan relations and if this continues steadily talks on a no-war pact could be resumed. Replying to a question on calling attention motion by Jaswant Singh, Bhartiya Janata Party and others, Narasimha Rao pointed out that only the foreign secretary level talks were put off for the time being. In other spheres matters are progressing. For instance, details of the proposed joint commissioned are being worked out.

LEADERS GREET HAQ ON PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY

BK230428 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The president and the prime minister have sent messages of greetings to President Ziaul Haq on the occasion of the National Day of Pakistan today.

In his message Sanjiva Reddy expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the two countries will continue to develop with a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation as envisaged in the Simla agreement.

Mrs Gandhi in her message referred to recent discussions and said India and Pakistan have identified sectors for increased cooperation. She hoped that it would be possible to raise bilateral relations to a higher level.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

BK231619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] India's security environment has been aggravated by the clear shift in the epicenter of world tensions from Europe to Asia. This has been stated in the annual report of the External Affairs Ministry for 1981-82. It says this shift is evident by the frantic military buildup in the Indian Ocean and induction of sophisticated armaments into Pakistan.

The report says the positive atmosphere in the India-Pakistan relations created by the discussion between the foreign ministers of the two countries has been vitiated by Pakistan's attempt to raise the Kashmir issue at the UN Human Rights Commission. It is in this background that the visit of the Indian foreign secretary to Islamabad had to be deferred.

The report notes with concern the rapid deterioration in East-West relations and symptoms of a new cold war. The naval presence in the Indian Ocean and the formation of rapid deployment forces have created a climate of confrontation. The continuing problem in Afghanistan, the Gulf war between two nonaligned nations and lingering tensions in Southeast Asia have caused us much concern.

It says India's foreign policy has been directed to create greater international awareness of the dangers of big power confrontation.

In the economic sphere, India endeavored to give a direction to the North-South dialogue on global negotiations. The recent New Delhi [South-South] consultations were a step forward toward the initiation of a dialogue on the new international economic order.

The report notes with satisfaction the followup actions taken during the year to strengthen relations with neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma, Bhutan and China.

The report expressed the hope that the present dialogue with China will lead to the settlement of all outstanding problems including the border question.

It expressed satisfaction at the understanding showed by the Soviet Union for the independent policy pursued by India, particularly its adherence to nonalignment.

India endeavored to establish better mutual understanding with the United States, especially in view of the differences in perception of the two governments on certain regional and global issues. However, the report says, the American decision to supply arms to Pakistan and to suspend fuel shipments for Tarapur have been the major irritants in improving relations.

TALKS WITH FRENCH MIRAGE MANUFACTURERS CONTINUE

BK231557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Talks with the French manufacturers of the Mirage aircraft are continuing normally. This was stated by Defense Minister Venkataraman in the Rajya Sabha when his attention was drawn to a newspaper report that the deal is running through trouble.

175,000 TONS OF RICE TO BE SUPPLIED TO USSR

BK221459 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] India will supply 175,000 tons of superfine rice to the Soviet Union. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi today by the managing director of the Food Corporation of India and the Soviet deputy general director of (?Eksportkhleb).

Th' agreement, which is in pursuance of a trade protocol signed last December, envisages the supply of the entire quantity of rice between July and December this year.

PATRIOT: USSR OFFERS ARMS DEVELOPMENT AID

BK231323 Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Mar 82 pp 1, 7

["Our Special Correspondent"]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has indicated its willingness to develop India's defense production capacity to help it in its avowed aim of self-reliance.

During Defense Minister Marshal Dimitry Ustinov's 5-day visit which ends on Saturday [20 March] morning the accent has been on providing the necessary inputs that would enable India to defend itself on the strength of its own military production capability.

Marshal Ustinov has assured Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, during their 90-minute meeting on Monday and Defense Minister Venkataraman when the two delegations held 2 and 1/2 hours of discussions on Friday, that the Soviet Union desires to continue and strengthen this cooperation.

Among the specific areas this could be done is the introduction of new production line in the MiG family of fighter aircraft. Some time ago, India had evinced interest in replacing the MiG-21 production line with that of the swing-wing MiG-23 fighter-interceptor. There are also hints that the MiG-27 may also be available.

The supply of the medium transport aircraft AN-32 for the Indian Air Force to replace the ageing AN-12S, the supply of two more modified Kashin-class ships for the Indian Navy (of the three already contracted for) and improved variety of surface-to-air missiles are some of the on-going programmes that are believed to have been discussed.

EXPRESS LINKS MIZO REBELS, BANGLADESH ARMY

BK231702 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Mar 82 p 7

[By Shekhar Gupta of EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE]

[Text] Shillong, March 16 — After a massive movement up front, the army has now sealed most of the known routes of ingress and escape along the borders with Burma and Bangladesh in Mizoram. An all-out offensive against the rebels is now believed to be round the corner.

Sources say the army may be waiting for the rebels to fire the first round. That will probably be after Mr Laldenga leaves for Europe or finally decides the course of future action.

The most formidable array of the army is in the Jampui hills area, along the Tripura-Mizoram jungle belt facing the Chittagong hill tracks of Bangladesh. Two army brigades, in addition to parliamentary forces, have sealed the border. The troops are ready for an offensive. But sources close to the security agencies say an offensive will be of very limited utility if something is not done about the guerrilla hideouts in Bangladesh. Raiding these will be a tricky proposition.

Sources say there is fresh evidence of active complicity of the Bangladesh Army with the Mizo rebels. Unless this is sorted out diplomatically, India will, sooner or later, have no choice but to take drastic action.

It is now well established that the Mizo National Front has its headquarters near the small Bangladesh Army cantonment of Rumazabar. It is believed to be situated in an accessible area. Intelligence agencies have it on authority that the Bangladesh Army has some working arrangements withthe MNF, which has posted a regular liaison officer, a self-styled major at Ruma-Bazar cantonment. All along the border the MNF has its tactical bases, within Bangladesh and also Burma. The rebels can luanch hit-and-run attacks from these bases. With Burma, the Indian Army has a working arrangement, but the main problem now is Bangladesh.

The rebels shifted their major bases into Bangladesh because of the hostility of the Burmese security forces. But in the Chittagong hill tracts and the Sajek ranges of Bangladesh the guerrillas have found an important "friend" in the new Kaptai dam across the Karnapahuli River. Their tactical headquarters at Chhipui is close to the river. The dam has formed a large reservoir which very nearly touches the Indian border along Mizoram. According to sources, the rebels use this reservoir for most of their movements into India and for escape. It is well-known that large parts of Mizoram depend on their requirement of fish on the catch from Karnaphuli. There is no bar, in practice, over the trans-border movement of petty smugglers of fish and other consumer products. The rebels make use of this situation as well. Most of the rebel units are arrayed in tactical formations along this reservoir.

Sources say the Bangladesh authorities originally began patronising the Mizo rebels as they were at daggers drawn with the Chakma rebels of the Shanti Bahini, which has been fighting the Bangladesh forces. The rebel groups were expected to neutralise each other. But after initial bitterness, they decided on a policy of non-interference. Observers feel the sudden rash of bloody encounters between the two groups is significant. In an encounter about a week ago in the Chittagong hill tracts, about four Mizo and six chakma rebels were killed. The total number of casualties in about a dozen encounters in the past month and a half is es estimated to be around 25. Sources close to the Indian security agencies say this could be due to a sudden effort on thepart of the MNF to probe its utility to the Bangladesh forces.

Chakma rebels have recently approached Indian authorities for help and sanctuaries.

It is surprising indeed that ever since the talks between the government and Mr Ladenga broke down in Delhi in the third week of January, not a shot has been fired in Mizoram although the security forces have been actively operating against the rebels. The chief secretary of Mizoram, Mr A.H. Scott, says this silence is "ominous." Sources say this could be because the security forces first want to see if some of the middleground rebels, particularly the youngsters, would be inclined to surrender peacefully. On paper, the number of surrenders and arrests has been quite impressive. But of about 200 persons who have come overground and surrendered to the forces since the renewed ban on the MNF, only one has brought weapons with him. Sources close to the security set-up say a surrender without arms is more or less meaningless, but sources close to the Mizoram Government say these are the new recruits who had not yet been issued weapons.

But it is acknowledged in government and security circles that the present peace will not last long. Three weeks is what most sources would concede before there is a fresh outbreak of hostilities.

STATESMAN: USSR DOWNPLAYS CPI CONGRESS

BK230538 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 18 -- The Soviet Communist Party has sent a four-member delegation, led by Mr E. Shevardnadze to attend the five-day 12th Congress of the Communist Party of India [CPI], being held in Varanasi from March 22.

Mr Shevardnadze, who is first secretary of the Georgia unit, is only an alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. (An alternate member has no voting right.)

The CPSU decision to depute only an alternate member as the leader of its delegation in Varanasi has disconcerted the CPI central leadership. It expected a better response from the centre of the world communist movement.

Evidently the CPSU and the Russian Government are anxious to show Mrs Gandhi that they do not lay much importance to the CPI and its Varanasi congress. Communist circles have pointed out that the CPSU leadership also wants to impress upon Mrs Gandhi that it has not fully endorsed the CPI's political line of opposing her and her government.

The CPI had adopted its political line of opposing Mrs Gandhi at the Bhatinda party congress in April 1978, when she was not in power. The CPI pursues its Bhatinda line even after Mrs Gandhi returned to power in January 1980.

Communist circles feel that the CPSU decision to treat the Varanasi congress in a low key has gladdened pro-Mrs Gandhi elements in the CPI.

These elements are expected to tell the official leadership at the congress that CPSU attaches the highest importance to Mrs Gandhi's government. As an instance of this, the CPSU sent to India the high-powered military delegation led by the Russian defence minister, Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, for talks with Mrs Gandhi.

The CPI has not received confirmation whether the communist parties of Italy and France are sending their delegations to Varanasi.

CPSU'S SHEVARDNADZE SPEAKS AT CPI CONGRESS

BK241529 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The Soviet Union is highly appreciative of India's "realistic approach" to major international problems, Eduard Shevardnadze, leader of a visiting Soviet Communist Party delegation told the 12th Congress of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI).

Mr Shevardnadze, addressing the congress now in session at the north Indian Uttar Pradesh town of Varanasi (Banaras), said India's foreign policy, which is supported by all left democratic and patriotic forces in the country, was "not to the taste" of world imperialism and reaction.

The present "deep aggravation" of the international situation was the result of the failure of "circles of imperialism" to reconcile themselves to the onward movement of the forces of democracy and socialism, he said.

Referring to developments in Afghanistan, he commended the Indian Government's "realistic" approach to the problem as well as the positions of "the CPI and all democratic forces in the country."

On Poland, he said that the Soviet Union was "deeply interested in the restoration of normal life there." The Soviet Union "has been rendering and will render assistance to socialist Poland, its friend and ally."

BHUTAN KING CONCLUDES 3-DAY VISIT 19 MARCH

BK191120 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuk left New Delhi for home this morning after a 3-day visit to India. He was seen off at the airport by President Sanjiva Reddy, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao and other dignitaries.

During his stay in the capital the king had discussions with Indian leaders on increasing bilateral cooperation. He had told the Indian leaders that his visit was particularly good and relations between the two countries were excellent.

PRC'S JI PENJFEI BEGINS VISIT 22 MARCH

BK221735 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Ji Pengfei was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad tonight as the head of a five-member good will delegation to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yaqub Khan. Federal ministers for railways, construction, and food and agriculture; (?secretaries) and senior officials were also present at the airport to greet him. A small child presented a bouqet to Ji Pengfei.

In a statement at the Islamabad airport, the Chinese vice premier said he was convinced that his visit will contribute to the further strengthening of the friendship, mutual understanding and friendly cooperation between Pakistan and China. The traditional friendship between the two countries dates back to ancient times and this friendship has withstood the test of time and [word indistinct]. He said as a result of of joint efforts of the governments and people of both countries, the relations and cooperation between them have developed satisfactorily over the years. He said he has brought with him the profound friendship and special greetings from the Chinese people for the Pakistani people on the occasion of the auspicious Pakistan Day celebration. He said they congratulate the people of Pakistan on their success in defending their national independence, sovereignty and security and developing the natinal economy.

During its 5-day stay, the high-powered Chinese delegation will have talks on matters of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. Tomorrow the delegation will witness the Pakistan Day parade. Before flying back home the delegation will visit Peshawar and an Afghan refugee tented village.

Talks With Haq 23 Mar

BK231723 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The Chinese good will delegation led by Ji Pengfei today spent some time with the president who accompanied the delegation to the state guest house after the Pakistan Day parade. The delegation had an exchange of views with the President on matters of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the foreign secretary was also present.

Holds Further Talks 24 Mar

BK241037 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Talks between President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and visiting Chinese good will delegation headed by Vice Premier Ji Pengfei were held in Rawalpindi today. The talks covered the current regional and global situation as well as matters of bilateral interests.

Chinese Vice Premier Ji Pengfei renewed the invitation extended in June last year by Premier Zhao Ziyang during his visit to Pakistan for President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to visit China. The date of the visit will be negotiated through diplomatic channels.

Exchanges Speeches at Banquet

BK250551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed confidence that China-Pakistan friendship will continue to play an important role in the promotion of world peace and stability. Speaking at a dinner he hosted in honor of Chinese Vice Premier Ji Pengfei in Islamabad last night, he said both countries are seeking to lessen the growing tensions between the big powers and to overcome increasing regional tensions.

The president said Pakistan wants to promote peace and friendly relations with all countries, especially neighboring countries, in accordance with the principle of peaceful coexistence. We want the resources of Pakistan and of our neighboring countries to be spent on the well being of the people and not on defense preparation. He said that in this spirit Pakistan offered a nonaggression pact to India to promote mutual confidence. So far, however, there has been no significant progress in this direction. Despite this, he said, Pakistan is not disappointed and still thinks India will appreciate the valve of our offer and the spirit in which it has been made and will extend cooperation in efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Referring to Afghanistan and Kampuchea, the president said Pakistan will continue to protest in international forums against foreign intervention in these countries until the intervention is over and supremacy of the principle of noninterference in the affairs of others is estabalished. The president expressed the hope that with the visit of the representative of the UN secretary general to the region there will be progress in efforts to find a political solution to the Afghanistan problem.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, he said we pray and hope for an early solution to the conflict between these two neighboring Islamic countries.

On the Middle East situation, he said we want an early solution to this crisis which will ensure withdrawal of all Israeli forces from all Arab territories -- including Jerusalem-- and restoration of rights of the Palestinians.

The president said Pakistan-China friendship has withstood every test of time and relations between the two countries will be further strengthened and consolidated with the passage of time.

Referring to his talks with the Chinese, he said we have an identity of views on all international issues.

In reply Chinese Vice Premier Ji Pengfei declared that China will, as always, support Pakistan in its just struggle to safeguard its national sovereignty and to oppose foreign aggression and intervention. He said the government and people of China will always support Pakistan regardless of any changes in the international situation.

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan and Kampuchea, he said events in these countries prove that the people of these countries cannot be dominated, and with the help and assistance of the world community they will eventually succeed. He paid tribute to Pakistan for upholding the principle of justice on the Afghanistan and Kampuchean issues as well as other international issues and for safeguarding the interests of Third World countries, the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic world. He said China, as a close neighbor, has always sincerely wished that all the countries of South Asia would bring an end to external intervention and settle their disputes in a spirit of mutual understanding and confidence and thereby play their roles in maintaining peace and stability in the region. He said the endeavors by Pakistan in this regard are highly appreciated.

Visits Afghan Refugee Camp

BK251045 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The visiting Chinese good will delegation visited an Afghan refugee tented village near Peshawar this morning. Talking to the Afghan refugees, the leader of the delegation, Vice Premier Ji Pengfei, expressed high admiration and appreciation to the government and people of Pakistan for their humanitarian assistance to them. He added that Soviet interference had brought untold sufferings to the Afghan people and created tremendous difficulties for Pakistan.

YAQUB KHAN ISSUES STATEMENT ON AFGHAN NEW YEAR

BK210756 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Pakistan has once again fully supported the international efforts for a just and honorable solution of the Afghanistan crisis. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in his statement on the occasion of the Afghan new year said Pakistan welcomes the appointment of Diego Cordovez as the new special personal representative of the UN Secretary general and hopes his efforts will help resolve this problem and restore peace and stability in the region.

He said Pakistan has constantly strived for a negotiated settlement of this problem. The UN General Assembly and the resolutions of the Islamic Conference Organization and the declaration of the nonaligned foreign ministers have fully explained the principles on which this crisis can be resolved and the international community has overwhelmingly supported these principles. Pakistan believes it is only through the implementation of these principles that a just and peaceful settlement of this problem can be achieved.

He said Pakistan's concerns over the developments taking place in Afghanistan are fully justified and natural. We are concerned not only over the change in the security environment but because of the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan a large number of Afghan people have become homeless and have taken shelter in Pakistan. Pakistan has provided shelter to Afghan refugees only on the grounds of human sympathy and Islamic values. At the same time, however, Pakistan has been actively pursuing a political solution of the Afghan problem so as to create the necessary conditions for the return of these refugees to their homes in safety and honor.

PRESS ON IMPLICATIONS OF USTINOV VISIT TO INDIA

DAWN Editorial

GF201434 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Mar 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Marshal Ustinov in New Delhi"]

[Text] The Soviet defence minister's visit to India has brought the regional implications of the Indo-Soviet equation into bolder relief. Marshal Ustinov decided to lead a high-powered delegation to New Delhi at a time when international politics in South Asia is in a fluid state, following the indefinite postponement of Indo-Pakistan talks. Whether Marshal Ustinov's visit will have a moderating influence on the Indian Government is open to question. On the two issues which have dominated Indo-Soviet ties for nearly two decades, Moscow's position so far has not helped discourage the militant forces in India. Soviet arms supply and the strategic relationship between the two countries have strengthened New Delhi's hand in the conduct of a very assertive foreign policy line, especially vis-a-vis its neighbours.

Even if the Soviet defence minister is not negotiating fresh arms supplies in New Delhi as stressed by the Indian Government, that would not make much of a material difference in the pattern of relations between the two countries, as major arms supplier and recipient. Under the deal concluded in 1980, India is receiving highly sophisticated weapons at nominal prices and the Soviet defence minister had assured his hosts of continued assistance.

Moreover, over the years the Soviets have provided the licence and the facilities to the Indians to manufacture some of these weapons, thus helping them in their effort to achieve self-reliance in defence production. But the bid to promote domestic manufacture of weapons and the move to acquire arms from the West have not reduced India's overwhelming dependence on the Kremlin for defence equipment. Moscow still remains the major source of arms on concessional terms for India.

The other aspect of Indo-Soviet ties is their strategic relationship derived from the treaty of friendship and co-operation they concluded in 1971. This is emerging as a significant factor in international relations. It has already affected South Asia in a profound way. It is likely to continue to do so since the two sides are inclined to adopt a common perception of some political and strategic matters pertaining to the region. Although Mrs Gandhi's government is believed to be uneasy about the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, it has not adopted an unequivocal stand against the foreign military presence in that country. Given the common positions the two governments have taken on important issues affecting the peace and security of the region, the dependence of India's public sector on Soviet technology and machinery and the massive supply of arms India has received from the USSR, it is not surprising that New Delhi should have come to be identified rather closely with the Kremlin in world affairs. While Soviet support for India has on many occasions determined Indian policies in the region, New Delhi's close equation with Moscow has brought the cold war to the subcontinent. This, more than anything else, has tended to give an East-West dimension to regional issues. Marshal Ustinov's visit to India will confirm this trend.

JASARAT Editorial

GF201335 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 17 Mar 82 p 3

[Editorial: "India Unmasked"]

[Text] Why has India suddenly postponed talks on the proposed nonaggression pact? This is a question being asked not only in Pakistan but also in India and throughout the world as well. This abrupt change in India's attitude is surprising as well as inexplicable, but concomitant events of the weeks following this decision have unmasked the factors behind it.

Although Western media view the Soviet trip to India merely in the light of Western politics, their concern is only to keep India from purchasing French Mirage-2000's so that India does not shift its dependence from the Soviet Union to France. Consequently, according to the analysis by Western sources, the aim of the high-level Soviet trip is to propose the sale of the new Mig-25's to India, which is outside the Soviet bloc, and to prevent India from entering France's sphere of influence. But we consider the motives to be different in the context of conditions in the subcontinent.

In our opinion the objective of this visit is that Pakistan, which is the object of the Soviet Union's denigration because of its shelter and assistance to refugees who have been rendered homeless as a result of Soviet military occupation, should not be made immune to the threat of war. Therefore, it is imperative that there should not be any nonaggression pact between India and Pakistan. The Soviet Union asked India to immediately postpone the second round of talks with Pakistan and, in order to achieve this delay, the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, and a high-powered team were sent to India to ensnare it in a mirage of new expectations, after 7 years.

This team includes the Soviet Army and Navy chiefs of staff and the deputy chief of staff of the army as well. Obviously India vitiated the talks with Pakistan after receiving information on the arrival of this delegation. We see the chances of any no-war pact between India and Pakistan as slim in the aftermath of the Soviet delegation's visit. With the revelation of the forces working behind the scene for this postponement, it transpires that Mrs Gandhi has mortgaged the freedom and sovereignty of India's foreign policy on the counter of Indian-Soviet friendship.

NUSRAT BHUTTO PROHIBITED FROM DEMONSTRATING

GF201305 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] Begum Nusrat Bhutto was served with an order on Wednesday stating that a meeting of the leaders of defunct political parties which she was contemplating to hold at her residence for "political purposes" was unlawful and would invoke action in accordance with law.

Another order was served on Mr Iqbal Hyder of the defunct Qaumi Mahaz-i Azadi, pointing out that he was contemplating to arrange a demonstration after collecting trade union leaders, workers and others at Empress Market on March 18 (today) at about 3 p.m. in protest against the arrests at Peshawar and for demanding restoration of democracy, etc. The demonstrators, it is planned, will show placards, shout slogans and then move around in Saddar in a procession.

These activities, he was reminded, are banned under martial law ordinance regulations.

The order warns Mr Iqbal Hyder to desist from indulging in these activities, otherwise, necessary action will be taken against him in accordance with law.

A similar order was served on Mr Nafees Siddiqi of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal also.

TEACHERS FAIL TO GATHER; MINISTER URGES UNITY

BK220330 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] According to a press release issued by the district magistrate in Islamabad today, some teachers in the federal capital made individual attempts to reach the Federal Secretariat. Their efforts however did not succeed. Those picked up in this connection were later allowed to go back to their homes. The Juma bazar ground, which was announced to be the venue for the assembly, remained vacant throughout the day. Life in the federal capital continued as usual.

The installation ceremony of the students union of the Quaid-e-Azam University was also held today in usual manner. Federal Minister for Education Mohammed Ali Khan, who is also the provost chancellor of the university, administered the oath and remained there for some time.

Speaking on this occasion the minister said unity and stabilization among the nation is the need of the hour. He said Quaid-e-Azam had high opinion about the students and always regarded them his frontline.

NOMINATION OF NEW INDIAN ENVOY ACCEPTED

BK240653 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The government has accepted the appointment of Krishna Dayal Sharma as ambassador of India to Pakistan.

COMMUNIQUE REPORTS IRAQI BRIGADES 'SMASHED'

LD241222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Joint Communique of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps -- issued "a few moments ago" -- communique not numbered]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. When God's assistance and victory arrives and when the people will enter the religion of God in groups, render thanks unto God, sing his praises and beg his forgiveness; for he is verily forgiving. [verse from the Koran]

May your steps be firm, o ye steadfast fighters in the battlefields who are creating new epic tales with your strength and endeavor in your ceaseless battle against the infidel forces, and who with every step liberate a part of the bloody territory of the Islamic homeland, and who create a unified and eternal life in the indivisible Islamic homeland. Greetings be upon you, o ye heroic forces who are being supported by the angels of God, the prayers of the imam and the ummah who are supporting you whilst at the fronts.

O ye wakeful and valiant nation. On the second stage of the Fat'h operations, code-named Ya Zahra, your fighting children, succeeded today at 1000 in smashing the 96th Infantry Brigade of the Iraqi Armed Forces. The 1st, 2d and 3d Battalions of this brigade were totally smashed and their personnel either killed or captured by the forces of Islam. The brigade commander, Staff Colonel Mirman was also captured by the forces of Islam. These operations, which aimed at destroying enemy capability and capturing their forces, resulted in crushing blows being inflicted upon the deceived forces of Saddam and the (Mishtab) and (Reqabiyeh) Heights and the surroundings hills were recaptured, so coming under the control of the forces of Islam. In the very first hours of their offensive our fighters succeeded in surrounding Iraqi tank battalions and the 8th Mechanized Battalion of the 34th Brigade at (Andalus), (Qurtubah) and (Ishbiliyah) inflicting very heavy blows upon them. They captured military equipment which remained intact.

At 0900 today, our powerful fighters destroyed an enemy artillery unit to the west of (Reqabiyeh) Heights. Following these operations 20 enemy artillery pieces were captured intact by the forces of Islam.

The second stage of the Fat'h operations, which are continuing, has resulted in thousands of enemy personnel being killed or wounded and nearly 2,000 other members of the aggressive forces being captured at the Raqheyveh axis. Counting, and the evacuation of the POW's continues.

We again warn the deceived armed forces of Iraq not to drag themselves toward further losses and destruction but to join the forces of Islam before it is too late. We also ask the Muslim and oppressed Iraqi nation not to allow Saddam, this mercenary of America, to continue leaving the fate of the Muslim people of Iraq to his own wishes and the wishes of his masters.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

TEHRAN REPORTS NUMBERS OF IRAQI CAPTIVES

LD241734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] According to IRNA, in the second stage of the Fat'h [victory] operations which began early this morning under the codename Ya Zahra [after Zahra, wife of First Imam 'Ali] a large number of enemy troops were taken prisoner by the combatants of Islam.

By this afternoon more than 2,500 prisoners had been counted. The transfer of the remaining prisoners is continuing with the capture of this group, the total number of captured enemy troops reaches 8,000. So far around 6,000 of them have been removed behind the battle lines.

The Iraqi officers captured today include Staff Colonel (Mirman), and Staff Colonel Khattab 'Omar, commander of the 10th Armored Division, who was also taken prisoner by the forces of Islam. Countless items of equipment were taken as booty, including tanks, cannons, vehicles, personnel carriers and various types of heavy and medium weapons. Because of the large number of these captured items, it is not possible at the moment to give an accurate figure of how many there are.

According to reports, yesterday afternoon the enemy waged a last-ditch move in the 'Eyn Khosh sector. However by the bravery of the warriors of Islam, who attacked the forces of blasphemy like thunder, 25 enemy tanks were completely destroyed with all their crews and accompanying personnel.

TEHRAN REPORTS GREAT VICTORY ON RAGHEYVEH FRONT

LD241810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Our correspondent has sent us the following report from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the great victory of the combatants of Islam on the Ragheyveh Front.

Last night following the heroic attack of the combatants of Islam on the aforesaid front and following the great and victorious operation, once again the fronts of pride and honor testified to the glory and faith of the Islamic crusaders.

This report states that in the early hours of the operations the enemy's defense lines, consisting of vast minefields and double spiral barbed wire entanglements were broken. The combatants of Islam captured the trenches of the aggressive enemy one after another.

In these victorious operations in addition to the destruction of many tanks, personnel carriers and other armored equipment of the enemy, 20 152-mm guns of the enemy were confiscated. Also thousands [as heard] of the deceived soldiers of the Ba'thist army were killed and joined the victims of the criminal Ba'thist regime. Meanwhile, regarding the statistics on the POW's captured during today's glorious victory, more than 2,000 POW's have been evacuated from the front. The evacuation is still continuing.

The report also states that following today's success, with the complete recapture of the Kuh-e Mushab Heights and Ragheyveh, the forces of Islam have neared the borders of our Islamic homeland and are completely dominating the border posts of (Fakkeh), Sutehzar and Safireh.

In these operations most of the personnel of the Iraqi 96th and 34th Brigades have been captured and the rest have been killed. Among the vast group of the enemy POW's are: Staff Colonel Mariman; Beyk Sami, commander of the 96th Brigade; Lt Col Davud Salman, commander of the 3d Battalion of the 96th Brigade; and more than 30 of the commanders and officers of the companies of the aforesaid brigades.

In an interview with our correspondent, the commander of the Iraqi 96th Brigade said the following regarding the number of Iranian POW's captured during the 22 March operations: We captured 14 prisoners, 8 of whom escaped. In reply to the question: Then how is Saddam going to parade 2,000 Iranian POW's?, the commander replied: Saddam can use any Iraqi man in the street or previously captured POW's as the alleged new POW's. Answering a question on whether Iraq has committed an aggression against Iran, the brigade commander said: Naturally, the country that is present on another country's territory is the aggressor. He also stressed that the 96th Brigade has been completely routed and most of its personnel have been taken prisoner.

TEHRAN: COMMUNIQUE NO 830 REPORTS ON FIGHTING

LD242000 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Report on Communique No 830 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Communique No 830 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been issued. In part of this communique the following has been stated:

The indefatigable conquerors following the path of truth, clutching the rope of God and with firm belief in the gracious God and with the special support of the Iranian Muslim ummah, in the first days of the new year in the second stage of the Fat'h operations dealt deadly and severe blows at the lifeless body of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army. Consolidating their positions and fortifications, they continue without stopping to advance and to mop-up the occupied zone of our beloved homeland of the filth of the Saddamists.

In this stage of the battle, which started at 0100 this morning, the ground forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps with the coordination of the popular forces, the gendarmerie the police and the mobilization corps and with the support of the air force managed to liberate and secure the Reqabiyeh Gorge, the heights of Mishu Dagh and a number of sensitive areas.

During these operations the forces of the Islam took intact, as spoils of war, one enemy artillery unit in the north of the Reqabiyeh Gorge together with a large quantity of arms and equipment of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army and routed a large number of the Ba'thist mercenaries.

The victorious 3d Brigade of the 77th Division, falsely alleged by the Iraqi radio to have been routed, managed to take more than 400 Ba'thist mercenaries prisoners. This morning a total 1,525 Iraqi POW's were transferred to Tehran from the operational zone and were viewed by the beloved compatriots from the railway square to the designated place.

In the first stage of the Fat'h operations the heroes defending Islam managed to completely rout the Iraqi 55th Infantry Brigade and to take its personnel prisoner. The 5th Battalion of the 99th Brigade has been completely taken prisoner and the 6th Brigade of the 10th Division of the Iraqi Army were destroyed. The 33d Armored Battalion and the 42d Armored brigade, suffered considerable damage. In the (Dash-e Abbas) area more than 50 enemy tanks were destroyed. The air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, supporting the operations of the combative ground forces guarding the airspace of the operational areas and enjoying air superiority managed to bomb the enemy's gathering places in (Choraneh) and (Fakkeh) and to inflict losses and casualties upon the enemy. The heroic pilots of the air force after completing their mission returned to their bases safely.

Meanwhile, this morning and afternoon two Iraqi aircraft were shot down by the high-flying fighter aircraft of the air force and the surface-to-air defense [system]. During the victorious war in the past 3 days a total of 8 airplanes of the aggressive Iraqi Army have been shot down by fighter airplanes and by the air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this communique it was stated: In the (Chazzabeh) and Karkeh Kur areas intense exchanges of fire were doing on, with the powerful forces of the army of Islam enjoying superiority. In addition, the movements of enemy units were stopped and 110 enemy servicemen were killed.

On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts as a result of the continuous fire of the devotees on the battlefronts, 3 observation posts, 3 ammunition dumps, 16 slit trenches and fox-holes and Katyusha emplacements were destroyed and 103 of the Ba'thist mercenaries were killed or wounded.

Because of the fire of the combat units the enemy's movement in the (Fao-Basrah) area was disrupted and the area is still under our fire. On all the western front sporadic exchanges of fire are continuing between the two sides.

RADIO REPORTS DOWNING OF IRAQI MIG 23 MARCH

LD241244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, with the crashing of another MiG belonging to the aggressive Iraqi forces, the number of enemy planes shot down since the start of the Fat'h operation has reached seven. According to this report, one MiG belonging to the aggressive Iraqi forces was shot down by the antiaircraft units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 1830 yesterday, near the Marty 'Abbaspur dam, in Masjed-3 Soleyman.

COLONEL DENIES KHORASAN DIVISION 'SHATTERED'

LD242322 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 24 Mar (IRNA) -- The commander of the 77th Khorasan Division of the Iranian Islamic Armed Forces, Colonel H. Ozgomi, denied the false propagandas of the Iraqi radio on his captivity and the shattering of his division in an interview with IRNA roday. In part of his interview he called these false propagandas kind of a futule effort to raise the morale of the Iraqi destroyed army. Saddam has called this division "blood thirst" because of its success in all of its operations in the battlefronts, continued Colonel H. Ozgomi.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON BAGHDAD POW MARCH

LD241114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0905 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran -- presumably issued 24 March -- statement not signed]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the recent claims made by the regime ruling Baghdad concerning the capture of a number of Iranian fighters and the announcement of a march by those who are said to be recent prisoners of war, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in obedience to the Koranic injunction: "Oh ye who believe! Even if a wicked man comes to you with a claim, investigate his claim," has -- so that the truth may be known and to prove the falsity of Saddam's claims -- requested the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent to send impartial representatives to Baghdad to register the names of the POW's who are supposed to take part in the march. They should report whether these brothers are fighters who have been recently captured, or whether they are the valiant people who were captured in the first few days of the war before the launching of the Fat'h operations against the executioners of Baghdad.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expects that our brother Mohammad Javad Tondguyan [former Iranian oil minister] and the rest of his companions will be present in today's marches in Baghdad; the worrying reports that these beloved ones have been martyred or that they are suffering from extreme weakness due to the severity of torture may then be proved wrong.

PRESIDENT KHAMENE'I ADDRESSES MASHHAD OFFICIALS

LD241328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, met this morning with heads and officials of various departments and Islamic revolution organizations of Khorasan Province. He reported on the policies of the Islamic Republic and the mission of revolutionary and governmental organizations and departments. The meeting was attended by Mr Va'ez Tabasi, representative [in Mashhad] of the imam and custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza, the minister of interior and the governor general of Khorasan.

The president said: [read by announcer] All the top officials of the country -- from the president, the prime minister and the ministers to other officials -- all of them are the servants of the people and unquestionaby execute the laws -- the difference between the past and present officials and directors is that in the past they attached no importance to the people and were not responsible; while, at present, our officials are servants of the people, and commitment, faith and practice are among their main characteristics. If this commitment, faith and practice is taken away from us we will also be like former officials. We should try to properly carry out our heavy responsibilities. Divine assistance comes to our succor at every moment. Our officials should show a greater willingness to give greater service. Any imposition upon the people or comfort-loving by our officials are great sins. Our model is our illustrious leader, who always regards himself as a servant of the people.

In another part of his speech the president said: One of the important principles in the Islamic Republic is respect toward people, any office which makes those who refer to it feel insulted is not an office in the Islamic Republic. Referring to the question of the purges and the reorganization of offices, he said: The policy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is that we should attract, not repulse the people as much as possible. We should pay attention in this regard so that we do not commit mistakes. The greatest degree of care and attention should be paid to the issue of departmental reorganization. Our standards are belief in Islam, revolution, and love for the people and cheerfulness at work.

Mr Khamene'i then referred to the need to respect the law, and said: The law should be carefully observed. The law and the culture which is in keeping with the revolution should rule everywhere. No one should dare violate the law. This morning, Mr Khamene'i met with a number of the families of martyrs of Khorasan Province. At this meeting, the president talked about the significance of martyrdom and martyrs.